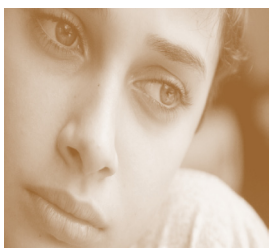


# Washington State Model for Juvenile Justice

Rev: January 18, 2013



The juvenile justice system in Washington State is a continuum of prevention, early intervention, and intervention services operated by both the county and state government. The Juvenile Justice Reform Act that originally passed in 1977, which has been refined in subsequent legislation, lays out a clear vision for work with youth involved in the justice system. Title 13, the state statute that governs the work of the juvenile justice system, charges both county and state agencies with the responsibility of holding youth accountable for their offenses and with providing necessary treatment and rehabilitation to youth. Title 13 also addresses the role of county government, namely courts, in child dependency proceedings. Throughout Title 13 participation by parents and guardians in processes is emphasized.

## Shared Overarching Principles

Although the Washington juvenile justice system is operated by 33 juvenile courts and a separate state agency, the juvenile justice system operates from a shared set of overarching principles.

These principles emphasize the importance of:

- Youth accountability
- Public safety
- Restorative justice
- Rehabilitation
- Disproportionate Minority Confinement/Contact


## Accountability

Juvenile justice programs and services in Washington emphasize holding youth accountable for their behavior. Levels of accountability range from sentencing to community supervision or confinement, ordering restitution, and laying out a set of behavioral expectations in:

- Juvenile Court Probation Orders
- Juvenile Court Detention Rules
- State Institutional Programming
- State Parole Conditions

Washington utilizes the principle of “least restrictive environment” when providing sanctions to youth that commit crimes. Current research indicates that risk of future crime can be increased if the level of intervention exceeds the level necessary to respond to the youth’s risk to re-offend and the seriousness of the crime.

In addition, part of youth accountability in juvenile justice is an expectation that the youth participate actively in rehabilitation.



**Public Safety** At all levels of the juvenile justice system, a driving principle is keeping the public safe. Communities have an expectation that they will be protected. The juvenile justice system places restrictions and expectations on youth to help maintain public safety.

**Restorative Justice** Restorative Justice values youth taking ownership for the harms they have caused, being held accountable in ways that are meaningful to their victims and their community, and provides youth with the opportunity to change and grow as healthy, positive community members. Youth are expected to pay restitution to the victims of their crimes and are usually required to perform community service as part of their court ordered sanctions. In addition, some communities provide the opportunity for youth to participate in Victim Offender Mediation as part of their community supervision.

**Disproportionate Minority Contact** Reducing “disproportionate minority contact” (DMC) in child and youth-serving agencies is a critical objective in Washington State and we are working to promote fair and unbiased juvenile justice systems that treat youth fairly regardless of their race or ethnicity. It is a priority for the Washington State Juvenile Justice Continuum to assess, address, and reduce DMC. Data collected throughout the state reveals that ethnic and youth of color are disproportionately impacted by the juvenile justice system. Studies conducted in Washington State confirm that youth of color are disproportionately represented at every stage of juvenile justice and that the disparity based on race and ethnicity increases as a youth progresses through the stages of: pre-arrest contact, arrest, referral, diversion, detention, filing of charges, adjudication, declination to adult court, probation and community supervision, confinement in a secure residential facility and parole/re-entry services.

**Rehabilitation** A significant focus of the Washington juvenile justice system is on youth rehabilitation. Youth are required to participate in programming and services that reduce the likelihood that youth will commit additional crimes. The system of rehabilitation for juveniles is based on several key components that are grounded in research about what reduces the risk of future crime. They include:

**Education Opportunities** Institutional Education in Washington State provides basic education services to youth in confinement programs. The goal is to provide youth with the opportunity to meet the same academic achievement that all youth are expected to meet. These services are delivered across the juvenile justice system in settings that include:

- County Detention Facilities
- State Institutions
- State Group Homes
- Alternatives to confinement programs

**Cross System Services** Youth in the juvenile justice system often have complex service needs that may include:

- Mental Health Issues
- Substance Abuse Issues
- Special Education Needs
- Previous and/or current Involvement with Child Welfare

For this reason, the juvenile justice system in Washington works collaboratively with other social and educational service systems to help youth succeed in school and in the community.

**Serve Youth at Lowest Level Possible** Youth involved in the juvenile justice system in Washington receive services at the lowest level of intervention possible to manage their level of risk. It has been

shown that youth that are at a low risk to re-offend can have their risk raised by receiving too much intervention such as confinement in detention or an institution or even community supervision.

**Risk and Needs Driven** In Washington a youth's service level is determined through the use of risk and needs assessments. Assessment identifies specific risks and needs a youth has as well as protective factors that exist for the youth and his or her family. The results of the assessment are utilized to decide:

- Whether to offer diversion
- What sentence a youth will receive
- Length of community supervision or confinement
- What services will be offered
- Release date from confinement.

**Services that Work** Since 1998, Washington has been implementing evidence based treatment services for youth in the juvenile justice system. Offering services that work to reduce future crime creates a cost benefit for the people of the state and also helps youth live successful adult lives.



## System Structure

The general structure of juvenile justice services in Washington State is a county-based court system and state-based institutional and parole services that comprise a continuum of care for youthful offenders.

All children and youth referred to this system under both the civil and offender laws of the state are addressed at the local level through the juvenile court system. The most serious juvenile offenders who are ordered to serve a period of confinement in a state institution are served at the State level by the Department of Social and Health Services, Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA) and the highest risk youth receive parole supervision. The juvenile courts and JRA work in partnership to address the needs of cross-system youth and in a shared vision for juvenile justice in Washington State.

There are 33 Juvenile Courts in Washington State that serve 39 independent counties. There are 22 county-funded secure detention centers across the state, the majority of which operate under the direction of the juvenile courts. The juvenile courts are primarily funded by the counties but also receive state pass-through funding, as well as various grants



and foundation funding for specified programming. Although the juvenile courts are separate jurisdictions that have unique practices consistent with the needs and funding structure at the local level, they operate in an intentionally collaborative manner through the Washington State Association of Juvenile Court Administrators (WAJCA), supported by the Washington State Superior Court Judges Association.

Through WAJCA, this process of independent county systems coming together in a shared vision to inform and implement system-wide best practices and reform efforts in juvenile justice is unique to the State of Washington. This very successful practice requires an absolute and ongoing commitment by each of the juvenile courts to a singular statewide mission that is designed to support the needs and challenges of each court, regardless of size and location. The processes, programs and services offered through the juvenile court system include: Prevention; Early Intervention; Intervention; and Treatment Programming.





## Prevention Efforts

### **Child Dependency: (RCW 13.34)**

Many county juvenile courts have responsibility for child dependency processes. Some services provide in courts for child dependency matters include:

- Guardian Ad Litem (GALs)
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs)
- Dependency 101 Classes and Parent Partner Resources
- Family Treatment Court
- Early Mediation
- Other Services

Courts work with DSHS social workers throughout dependency proceedings. Child dependency processes and services have an important impact on children and families. These services have downstream impacts. Recent data analysis indicates that about 60% of youth in the juvenile justice system have previous child abuse and neglect histories.



### **Youth at Risk: (RCW 13.32A)**

The Washington system of juvenile justice focuses on impacting youth risk and protective factors. Literature on risk and protective factors indicate that there are some key areas which can be impacted to stop a youth's potential path toward juvenile offending. Juvenile courts operate several programs having an early impact reducing of youth risk and building protective factors.

These programs include:

- At Risk Youth (ARY) Petitions (RCW 13.32A.191, 192, 194, 196)
- Child in Need of Services (CHINS) Petitions (RCW 13.32A.140, 150, 152, 160)
- BECCA Truancy Proceedings (RCW 28A.225)

Accessing these services does not require that a youth have committed a crime and several of them allow parents (and even children) to initiate the request for services. The programs work to increase youth participation in school and treatment services. In addition under RCW 13.32A, DSHS operates Family Reconciliation Services which attempt to divert youth from involvement with the court.



## Early Intervention

### **Diversion (RCW 13.40.080)**

First-time offenders referred for misdemeanor offenses are eligible for diversion. Most diversion programs are operated within probation departments' diversion units. Cases are reviewed to determine if they can be diverted or will be prosecuted. The general diversion procedure involves a diversion intake interview with the juvenile and his or her parents, during which the juvenile decides whether to go through diversion or go to court. Diversion units are usually made up of professional and citizen volunteers. The citizen volunteers act as Community Accountability Board members to determine the terms and conditions of the diversion agreement.

The Community Accountability Board is made up of volunteers from the community who hear juvenile cases and create a diversion agreement for the juvenile to complete. The diversion agreement uses many restorative justice options and may include community service, restitution, counseling/education programs, mediation, or victim/offender reconciliation programs. The diversion agreement may not extend beyond a six-month time period. In some counties, there are alternatives to the accountability boards, such as education programs on alcohol use/abuse/dependency for juveniles referred for possession of alcohol and seminars for juveniles referred for shoplifting.

Diversion is an important part of the continuum which prevents low risk youth from entering deeper into the juvenile justice system.



## Intervention



**Detention (RCW 13.16 and 13.20)** Counties operate (or contract for) detention. There are 22 detention facilities in Washington. The local Superior Court administers secure juvenile detention in most counties. In Clallam, King, Skagit and Whatcom counties and one regional center maintained by a consortium of counties, the county legislative authority/county executive administers secure juvenile detention.

Youth may be held in detention:

- After arrest for allegedly committing an offense
- On a warrant, while awaiting adjudication
- As a disposition
- As a sanction for probation or parole violations

By statute, a juvenile can be detained if:

- He/She is unlikely to appear for further proceedings
- Detention is required to protect the juvenile, the community, and/or witnesses
- The juvenile commits a crime while another case is pending
- The juvenile is a fugitive
- The juvenile's parole has been suspended
- The juvenile is a material witness



There are numerous protections for youth to ensure they are only detained if necessary including detention and probable cause hearings. A Washington statute mandates the counties follow detention intake standards to determine whether detention is warranted.

Each county has detention screening criteria; however, screening criteria vary from county to county guided by local priorities or policies. Several juvenile detention programs utilize alternatives to detention to decrease time youth spend in secure detention. These programs include:

- Day and evening reporting
- Electronic home monitoring
- Group care
- Work crew programs


In recent years, there has been a decline in the average daily population of youth detention. This reduction is created in part by use of alternatives to detention and is also a result of the decline in juvenile offenses. In the absence of detention alternative programs, detention populations and overall juvenile justice cost would increase.

**Probation Services (RCW 13.40)** Counties operate a system of local sanctions that include probation supervision. Local courts administer juvenile probation in 36 of Washington's 39 counties. In the remaining counties (Clallam, Skagit and Whatcom), by agreement with the court, the county legislative authority administers probation. The length of probation varies depending upon:

- A youth's offense
- The youth's assessed level of risk

RCW's, WAC's, and local policies provide structure to probation. The structure of the system has been built to work in small rural communities as well as in large urban areas. This allows both uniformity and flexibility to meet the special circumstances of a community.

In 1997, juvenile courts worked to create a uniform approach to assessing youth risk and protective factors. Science and research have shown that risk and protective factors are linked to the risk that a youth will commit a crime. Washington juvenile courts implemented the risk and needs assessment in 1998.



Currently, all youth on probation are screened with a uniform risk and protective factor assessment. In some locations these assessments are part of predisposition reports completed by juvenile probation counselors. In other locations, the assessment is conducted after a youth is sentenced.

In all cases, the assessment helps the probation counselor:

- Identify the needs of the youth and family
- Allows the court to offer services and programs that match the youth

Sentencing of youth is based upon a determinate sentencing grid which guides judges in ordering juvenile offenders' dispositions. The grid determines sanctions based on:

- The seriousness of the offense
- The juvenile's criminal history

Age is not a factor incorporated into the disposition grid. When a youth's sentence is to local sanctions, the youth can receive up to 30 days of detention and probation supervision. The length of probation supervision is determined in part by the youth's risk level. Low risk youth are often sentenced to shorter terms of probation.

Probation case loads vary from county to county and can range from around 25 to 100 cases per counselor. The probation case load can also vary by the type of youth on probation. In some locations, lower risk youth are assigned to probation counselors with higher case loads. This allows higher risk youth to be assigned to probation counselors with lower case loads.

### **Structure of Community Supervision (Probation) Services in Washington State**

The 33 independent County Juvenile Courts in the State of Washington have invested substantial effort and resources in the development and adoption of a statewide model for probation supervision of youthful offenders at the county level. This "What Works" model incorporates "Risk, Needs and Responsivity Principles" for reducing juvenile offending behaviors inclusive of the following:

- Use of motivational techniques to prepare youth and family to accept services and overcome barriers to participation;
- Determine a youth's level of risk to re-offend as a means to target resources to those youth presenting the higher-risk;
- Identify the combination of dynamic risk factors and/or specific deficits that are propelling a youth to continue his or her criminal behavior (criminogenic need);
- Identify the combination of dynamic and protective factors that can protect against further criminal behavior;
- Develop a case management process, jointly with the youth and family, focused on reducing dynamic risk factors and increasing dynamic protective factors;
- Focus on criminogenic need and match the appropriate program designed specifically to address the youth's assessed profile; and
- Develop assessment and recidivism outcome measures to determine if targeted dynamic factors change as a result of the court's intervention.

In 1997, the 33 Juvenile Courts in Washington State collaborated with the Washington State Institute for Public Policy to develop, validate and implement a juvenile offender assessment tool. Since 1998, the Washington State Association of Juvenile Court Administrators (WAJCA) has maintained an active Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) responsible for establishing statewide quality assurance for practice standards regarding the risk/needs assessment tool. In 2000, at the recommendation of the QAC, WAJCA adopted the "Case Management Assessment Process" (CMAP) as the model for probation supervision of juvenile offenders provided by county juvenile courts statewide.

The CMAP model is based on Risk/Need/Responsivity Principles and incorporates a multi-stage approach by trained/certified probation counselors that includes; assessing youth needs through the use of the Washington Juvenile Courts' validated risks/needs assessment tool; integrating the assessment information into a comprehensive case plan designed to address the youthful offender's risk; setting concrete behavior targets that link a youth's

risk profile with the appropriate intervention following the best practice model of using evidence-based programs when available; and providing support, guidance, and reinforcement to the youth through a process of change. The QAC provides support and technical assistance to each juvenile court in its efforts toward implementation of and adherence to the CMAP model. While the CMAP model guides the delivery of probation supervision services in county juvenile courts, accountability of youthful offenders to victims of youth crime, and community safety are also fundamental principles incorporated into the juvenile courts' work with youth who are placed on probation supervision in each county.

The CMAP model, uniquely delivered through the juvenile court structure, is specifically designed to promote positive behavioral change and reduce the likelihood of re-offense by youth who are placed on probation through the juvenile courts. While each juvenile court in Washington State has its own hiring criteria for probation counselors, standard qualifications include a bachelor's degree in a behavioral science field. Each juvenile probation counselor is required to complete a course of basic training through the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission, which includes a week long CMAP academy. Each probation counselor is then expected to become fully certified in the delivery of CMAP through a process of independent review by a quality assurance specialist.



## Intervention - Treatment Programs

### Services for youth at juvenile courts (includes RCW 13.40.500-550)

Youth on probation have access to services in the community. Youth may be referred to substance abuse treatment, mental health services, community-based mentoring, educational programs, and vocational programs. Probation counselors assist youth and their families in accessing community services. Probation counselors can also refer youth to programs run by the probation department specifically for youth on probation.

In 1998, Washington was the first state in the nation to implement research-based programs on a statewide basis through the Community Juvenile Accountability Act. CJAA funds research-based interventions proven to reduce recidivism among juvenile offenders. Interventions include:

- **Functional Family Therapy (FFT)** *Family therapy program that lasts up to four months. This program has been shown to cost effectively reduce youth felony re-offense rates by 24%. The program focuses on helping families improve youth behavior and reduce family conflict.*
- **Washington State Aggression Replacement Training (WSART)** *Skills-based group education program for youth that lasts 10 weeks. The program teaches youth social skills, anger management, and moral reasoning. The program has cost effectively reduced youth felony re-offenses by 24%.*
- **Coordination of Services** *Education program for parents and low risk youth that provides information on community resources.*
- **Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)** *Family therapy program that provides 24/7 therapist support to families. Service lasts up to six months and has been shown to reduce recidivism by 10%.*
- **Family Integrated Transitions (FIT)** *Family therapy program that provides 24/7 therapist support to youth and families. The program is designed to assist youth who are dually diagnosed with substance abuse and mental health issues. The program lasts up to six months and has been shown to reduce youth re-offense rates by 13%.*



Juveniles who have been assessed on the risk and protective factor assessment can be referred to these programs. Youth that are moderate to high risk to re-offend are eligible for the more intensive programs. The Washington State Institute for Public Policy evaluated the Community Juvenile Accountability Act programs and found that they do reduce recidivism and have a cost benefit to the state.

A system of quality assurance has been developed to ensure that these programs are implemented as they were designed. Research shows that this quality assurance is essential to reducing recidivism.

Most of these programs are also offered by JRA to youth who are committed to the state to serve confinement.

## Intervention

### **Disposition Alternatives (RCW13.40.0359; 13.40.160; 13.40.165; 13.40.167)**

To avoid placement in institutions, the state funds disposition alternatives that are operated by the courts. These are specialized probation services for sex offenders, mentally ill youth, and substance-abusing juveniles.

First-time sex offenders whose standard range disposition provides for commitment to JRA and who are judged to be amenable to treatment may receive the Special Sexual Offender Disposition Alternative (SSODA). Youth on SSODA must register as sex offenders and submit to DNA identification and HIV testing. They also must complete a period of community supervision of at least 24 months. The disposition also includes

- sex offender counseling provided by state-certified sexual offender treatment providers and
- may include electronic monitoring.

Juveniles who are drug or alcohol dependent may receive the Chemical Dependency Disposition Alternative (CDDA), which entails an extended period of community supervision and community-based substance abuse treatment. This alternative is available to youth who would otherwise receive a sentence to JRA and to youth with local sanction sentences. Many juvenile courts use a drug court structure that also serves youth on CDDA.

Juveniles subject to a standard range JRA commitment of 15 to 65 weeks, who are assessed as having an Axis I psychiatric disorder and as being amenable to treatment, may receive the Mental Health Disposition Alternative (MHDA). The court may place the juvenile on community supervision for up to one year and order the juvenile to participate in recommended treatment interventions.

Juveniles not eligible for SSODA, CDDA, or MHDA may be eligible for Suspended Disposition Alternative (SDA). SDA eligibility is predicated on the charged offense.

Under SSODA, CDDA, MHDA, and SDA, the court imposes a standard range sentence to JRA and then suspends the sentence to JRA. Youth who do not complete the requirements of SSODA, CDDA, MHDA, and SDA can have the disposition alternative revoked and be confined in JRA under the standard range sentence.

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### **Diagnostics**

A pre-admission screen is completed on all JRA youth by JRA Regional staff. Based off this assessment, youth are assigned to an appropriate institution at which time a diagnostic report is created for each youth sentenced to serve a period of confinement in JRA.



This report compiles information collected by JRA staff from the pre-admission process, treatment providers, youth and family. All youth upon admission participate in the Integrated Treatment Assessment (ITA), a tool used to measure risk and protective factors for the youth and family. In addition to the ITA assessment the report includes:

- Family and community supports
- School progress
- Criminal history
- Mental health status and any past diagnoses or issues
- Behavior in detention and in the community
- Health status including any ongoing medical problems
- Risk to re-offend

The report assists treatment providers in aligning and planning for the youth's treatment services within the least restrictive residential program.





## **JRA Residential Programs (RCW 13.40.460)**

Youth who are sentenced to more than 30 days of confinement are served in state funded and operated residential facilities. The state agency responsible for longer term confinement and parole services is the Department of Social and Health Services Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA.) JRA operates three maximum security residential facilities, one medium security residential facility, and six minimum security facilities. It also contracts for several community-based beds for youth.

The three major residential facilities are:

- Echo Glen Children's Center (Population - 144)
- Green Hill School (Population - 185)
- Naselle Youth Camp (Population - 80)

At each residential facility, youth receive a cognitive behavioral based treatment programs to:

- Teach youth new skills to use in the community
- Reduce youth aggression and other criminal behaviors
- Increase youth success in the areas of education, vocational readiness, and job skills
- Stabilize and improve functioning of mentally ill youth
- Increase the likelihood youth will remain crime free

The treatment model is based on Dialectical Behavior Therapy and includes analysis of the youth's pattern of harmful behavior. Thorough behavioral analysis allows residential counselors to construct treatment plans that are tailored to the youth's specific needs. This includes strategies to:

- Extinguish problem behavior
- Teach youth new pro-social skills
- Support the use of new skills
- Avoid problem behavior in the future

Each residential facility specializes in a specific set of youth based on:

- Security level
- Age
- Gender
- Treatment needs

Accomplishing positive outcomes has also depended in part on the specialization of programs. JRA has developed specialized programs that meet the needs of youth with complex treatment needs.



## **JRA Parole Programs (RCW 13.40.210-212)**

JRA provides a system of post-release parole services. The length of parole supervision is determined by the youth's assessed risk to re-offend and the youth's offense. The lengths of parole are:

- 20 weeks for Auto Theft Parole
- 6 months for high risk youth assigned in Intensive Parole
- 24 to 36 months for sex offender parole

Functional Family Parole (FFP) is the model for parole services. Based on Functional Family Therapy, FFP is a family-focused therapeutic intervention to improve communication, build hope, and engage families in understanding, supporting, and reinforcing positive change made by youth as a result of services received in JRA residential facilities. A 2009 study by the University of Indiana showed a 15% reduction in felony recidivism among youth who received FFP services from an experienced parole counselor proficient in the FFP model service requirements.

Parole counselors meet with youth on parole and their families in the family home. Meetings focus on identifying challenges youth are facing as they reintegrate into the home and the community. Parole counselors offer youth and families strategies to manage issues that arise as well as facilitate youth returning to school, finding work, and connecting to substance abuse or community mental health services.



## Intervention

**Special Services Provided to Youth Involved with JRA** In addition to the general treatment provided to all youth, JRA provides specialized treatment services to youth with specific treatment needs. These services include:

- **Substance Abuse Treatment**  
*Within its residential programs, JRA operates intensive outpatient programs, intensive inpatient programs, and an aftercare recovery house. These programs are certified by the state. Youth who are assessed as needing specialized substance abuse treatment services are able to participate in these programs during their time in JRA.*
- **Sex Offender Treatment**  
*JRA provides specialized sex offender treatment to youth while they are in residential programs and contracts for sex offender treatment services while youth are on parole. Sex offender treatment programming includes identifying the youth's offense pattern and improving skills to avoid offending.*
- **Acute Mental Health Programming**  
*On any given day over 65% of youth in JRA have an identified mental health disorder. A subset of these youth have acute mental health needs that must be carefully managed in JRA residential care. JRA operates several specialized living units that focus on managing and treating youth with severe mental illness, including risk of suicide and self harm.*
- **Functional Family Therapy (FFT)**  
*JRA provides formal FFT to youth on parole supervision. JRA follows the same evidence-based service protocol as the juvenile courts.*
- **Washington State Aggression Replacement Training (WSART)**  
*JRA provides formal WSART to youth in its residential programs. JRA follows the same evidence-based service protocol as the juvenile courts.*
- **Family Integrated Transitions (FIT)**  
*JRA provides FIT to youth with mental illness and substance abuse issues. FIT is a six month intensive family treatment that provides youth and their parents with 24/7 access to a specially trained therapist*
- **Mentoring**  
*JRA matches some youth on parole to mentors in the community. Mentoring has been shown to reduce youth recidivism.*

## Connections to Other Services and Programs

### Mental Health Services

*A large portion of youth struggle to manage mental health issues. All parts of the juvenile justice system work to connect youth to community-based mental health programs. Early and effective mental health services can reduce the likelihood that a youth will become involved in juvenile justice.*

### Substance Abuse Services

*A large number of youth involved in the juvenile justice system struggle with substance abuse or chemical dependency. All parts of the juvenile justice system work to connect youth to community-based treatment programs. Effective treatment services reduce the likelihood that a youth will stay involved in the juvenile justice system.*

## Impacts of These Investments

Since the mid 90s, investments have been made to improve outcomes for youth in the juvenile justice. Investments in county programs have impacted youth rates of recidivism and significantly reduced the population in juvenile detention centers.

In JRA, the residential population has dropped by half from the residential population in 1996. The average daily population is now about 550 youth.

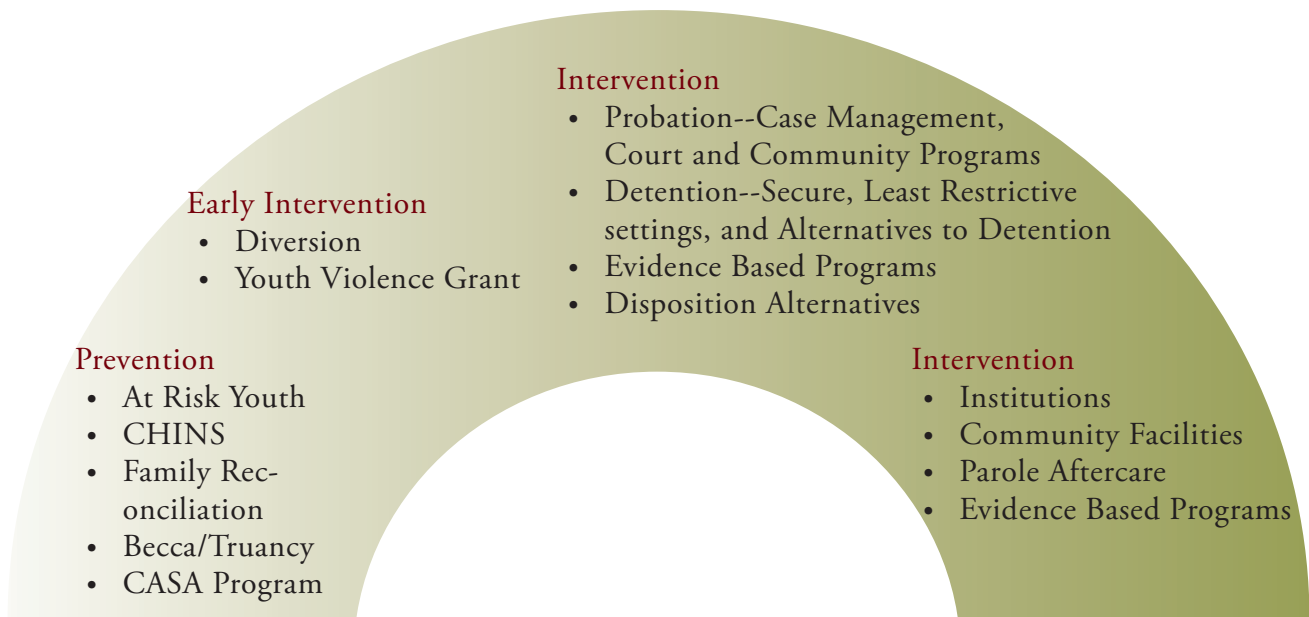
Investments in the juvenile justice have provided the gains that:

- Reduced the number of youth involved in juvenile justice
- Reduced the detention population
- Cut the residential population of JRA in half

Continued investments are important to maintaining these benefits, which include avoiding building additional prisons.



# Washington State Justice System Continuum of Services





**RCW 13.40.010** Subsection 2) It is the intent of the legislature that a system capable of having primary responsibility for, being accountable for, and responding to the needs of youthful offenders and their victims, as defined by this chapter, be established. It is the further intent of the legislature that youth, in turn, be held accountable for their offenses and that communities, families, and the juvenile courts carry out their functions consistent with this intent. To effectuate these policies, the legislature declares the following to be equally important purposes of this chapter:

- (a) Protect the citizenry from criminal behavior
- (b) Provide for determining whether accused juveniles have committed offenses as defined by this chapter;
- (c) Make the juvenile offender accountable for his or her criminal behavior;
- (d) Provide for punishment commensurate with the age, crime, and criminal history of the juvenile offender;
- (e) Provide due process for juveniles alleged to have committed an offense;
- (f) Provide necessary treatment, supervision, and custody for juvenile offenders;
- (g) Provide for the handling of juvenile offenders by communities whenever consistent with public safety;
- (h) Provide for restitution to victims of crime;
- (i) Develop effective standards and goals for the operation, funding, and evaluation of all components of the juvenile justice system and related services at the state and local levels;
- (j) Provide for a clear policy to determine what types of offenders shall receive punishment, treatment, or both, and to determine the jurisdictional limitations of the courts, institutions, and community services;
- (k) Provide opportunities for victim participation in juvenile justice process, including court hearings on juvenile offender matters, and ensure that Article I, section 35 of the Washington state Constitution, the victim bill of rights, is fully observed; and
- (l) Encourage the parents, guardian, or custody custodian of the juvenile to actively participate in the juvenile justice process.

Department of Social  
and Health Services  
Juvenile Court Programs  
Juvenile Rehabilitation  
Administration  
[www.dshs.wa.gov/jra](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/jra)